

From: Thomas Hardy [mailto:thsc1283@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 5:55 PM
To: Chairman.Howard; Tim.Pearson@governor.sc.gov
Subject: NC Earthquake

Do you know if SCE&G's Nuclear plant was affected by the earthquake 116 miles away in Hendersonville on March 16, 2011. Did they register it? Were safety precautions taken and the reactor shut down? Are you and the commissioners certain that investing 5.8 billion in 2 new nuclear plants to serve "base load" is really prudent? The ROE of the investment coupled with the recovered operating costs will certainly help SCANA grow earnings over the next twenty years, but I'm not sure it's in the best interest of South Carolinians. Perhaps its time to start looking a Retail Competition again and create some incentives for investment in smaller, more environmentally friendly generation like natural gas; how about new transmission lines with capacity to "wheel" energy from out of state producers that are already delivering electricity to retail customers cheaper than SCE&G is. I'm not sure we are looking at this from all angles. The disaster in Japan is tragic yet it gives each of you the opportunity to re-examine what direction South Carolina's energy future needs to go. It's never too late to make better decisions. The citizens of South Carolina are counting on you.

Thomas Harding
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